



ROCKLAND ENERGY COMMITTEE

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of the Town of Rockland:

Last year was a time of continued commitment, great progress and proven success for members of the Rockland Energy Committee as we continued advancing our collective goals of becoming an all-around sustainable, energy-efficient community. With support from our partners and town residents, Rockland has unmistakably made its mark as leader on these issues around the region—and throughout the Commonwealth—and it’s clear that we are moving forward.

After learning of the success of our grant application to construct a solar panel array on the top of the Rockland High School from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust, our Committee spent the first part of the year preparing bidding requirements and project specifications in accordance with state procurement laws which allowed us to seek proposals from a number of area contractors.

In partnership with School Superintendent John Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Doric Scarpelli, along with Marilyn Werkheiser and Mike Mullen from the School Committee, we

performed a thorough and competitive selection process based on DCAM certification, the size and price of the proposed solar array from each company, engineering documentation, warranties, and the educational programming components included in each proposal. At a joint meeting between the Energy and School Committees in early May, members from each committee voted unanimously to award the contract to Fall River Electrical Associates.



The new 23.8kW grant-funded solar array atop Rockland High School

The project—which will save an estimated \$4,000 annually in energy costs for the school department—was completed just before the start of the new school year, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Energy Committee and attended by high school students, town residents and federal, state and local officials was held on October 23, 2009. Residents can keep up-to-date with the daily and lifetime energy output of the solar array, its status and history on the Energy Committee’s homepage found at www.rockland-ma.gov.

However, working to ensure the successful installation of the high school solar array was not the only project on our Committee’s list in 2009. With our partners on the Planning and Zoning Boards, we worked to write a by-law that will serve as the foundation for siting wind turbines in the town. We also applied for a first grant with the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER) last May that would provide energy audits—similar to those performed at the schools last year—at the Town Hall, the Fire and Police Departments, the Highway Department, Abington-Rockland Joint Water Works, the Library and Community Center. The town is currently on a waiting list for these audits, and we expect to hear more about them being performed the first half of this year.

In the meantime, we are also taking our own steps in doing what we can to make our buildings more energy-efficient. Using the last of our earned \$3,017 *Clean Energy Choice*® grant funding, the Committee is planning to install solar panel-powered lights around the perimeter of Town Hall this spring. So, stay tuned for more information on both fronts!

Continuing to take advantage of all grant opportunities that come our way, members of the Rockland Energy Committee finished the year by putting the finishing touches on a second grant application to the DOER to install a solar array—similar to the one constructed at the high school—on the Esten School roof. The preparation and completion of this latest grant proposal serves as yet another shining example of the Committee’s strong partnership with the School Department, and we thank them for their continued support of our work. We should also hear more information about the status of this grant within the coming months.

While there is so much that our Committee has learned and accomplished over the past three years, we realize that there is still so much more to do. We greatly appreciate the widespread—and ongoing—support we’ve received from Congressman Bill Delahunt, State Senator Michael Morrissey and State Representative Bob Nyman, in addition to



Mark Sylvia, Director of the DOER’s Green Communities Division, cuts the ribbon for the new High School solar array with Mike Mullen and Superintendent John Retchless looking on

members of the Board of Selectman, School Committee, town department heads and all town residents. We look forward to continuing our work with you and all of our neighbors towards reaching our collective goals for our great community!

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Mullen, Jr.

Rockland Energy Committee

Carol Perilli, Chair

James Paul, Vice-Chair

Michael Mullen, Jr., Secretary

Heidi Hosmer, Treasurer

Frank Delprete

Steve Johnson

Phil Wood